

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, December 4, 2012
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Jane Bennett, Brian Bidlake, Louie Bouma, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Carey Schmidt, Dennis Schutz
Staff: Vivaca Crowser, Pat Saffel, Mike Thompson, Dori Schiele, and Mack Long

2013 Legislative Session

CAC members were given a packet of the proposed FWP 2013 legislative package. Mack discussed the items and also gave CAC members a listing of legislators by district.

Award Presentation

Tim Aldrich, CAC & Missoula Conservation Roundtable member, presented Mack Long with the Arnold Bolle Conservation Award. Past award recipients and others attended the award presentation.

Hunting Season Wrap-up, etc.-Mike Thompson and Vivaca Crowser

- 2012 hunting season went well, but R2 check station data showed that hunter numbers and deer/elk harvested were down overall, due largely in part to more conservative hunting regulations in many parts of the region.
- Elk hunting is very restricted in the East & West Forks of the Bitterroot, so hunter trips were especially down through the Darby check station.
- At the Bonner check station, biologist Jay Kolbe found an increase in young white-tailed bucks. This may be an early indication of population growth.
- Mule deer populations are down regionally (and across many parts of the western state).
- Vickie Edwards ran a hunter check station out at Fish Creek and got steady traffic and good hunter data.
- FWP is launching a moose research study across Montana.
- Goats are not doing well and their numbers are down throughout the entire region.

CAC Suggestions to FWP for Future Hunting Seasons, etc.

- Have a check station (in addition to Vickie's in Fish Creek) in-between Superior and Missoula along I-90 to collect data from that part of the region.
- Could FWP add more check stations around the region?
- Add voluntary hunter reporting online to get extra data.
- Many wildlife killed on the interstate and state highway—what work is being done, or could be done, to prevent these collisions (more under or overpasses, outreach & education?)

River Recreation Survey- Pat Saffel

- As a follow-up to the August 2012 CAC meeting and river recreation topics discussed, the FAS program is looking into the possibility of conducting a user satisfaction survey on R2 rivers.
- Chet Crowser & Pat have begun discussions with UM on potential ways to get the surveys done. Chet & Pat would like to involve interested CAC members in survey development and will keep the group updated.

Effectiveness of CAC

FWP staff thanked the CAC members for their dedication and contributions over the years. FWP staff summarized how CAC input and conversations have affected their program areas.

Mike Thompson said that CAC had a big effect on wolf management & outreach in R2. He recalled the Dec. 2009 meeting when wolf management was the topic. The discussion in that meeting caused FWP R2 to critique its approach to carnivore management, and to then revise it. This carried on through the region's lion season proposal for 2012, when relationships fostered in CAC paid off in a new direction in lion management. Mike said that the relationships and the trust built in CAC come to our minds and become part of our work in countless ways.

Pat Saffel pointed to how the CAC affected our river recreation program by helping us place a priority on data collection. After the Aug. 2012 meeting, FAS staff began to develop an approach to gathering data on river use and user preferences, with CAC inputs in mind. Pat also noted the CAC's role in launching the process of developing new boating regulations for the region in 2011.

Vivaca Crowser pointed to the CAC input on trapping related issues. Some CAC members even served on local trapping work group which led to the development of outreach materials on recreating on public lands with your dog and the establishment of some "trap free" areas in the greater Missoula area.

2013 Meeting Dates

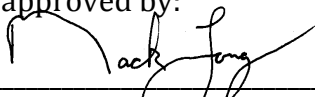
The meetings will be the first Tuesday of Feb., May, Aug. & Dec., starting with dinner at 6:00 pm with the meeting to follow at 6:30 pm. Specific dates are as follows:

- Feb 5
- May 7
- August 6
- December 3

Next meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6 pm, at Perkins (2275 North Reserve, Missoula)

Minutes approved by:



Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

____1/17/13____
Date